Production of Cereals

2266. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of cereals, fruits, vegetables and cotton in the country this year;

(b) what is the domestic need of these item, itemwise thereof; and

(c) whether there is any shortfall between the demand and supply, if so, the manner in which Government propose to cover the shortfall with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The production of cereals and cotton in the country during 1992-93 is currently estimated to be 166.5 million tonnes and 11.66 million bales of 170 Kgs. each respectively. There are no official estimates available for the production of fruits and vegetables. However, as per rough estimates, production of fruits and vegetables was estimated to be about 28.2 and 58.0 million tonnes respectively.

(b) and (c) The domestic requirement of cotton in the country during 1992-93 was estimated to be around 12.0 million bales. The demand for cereals, fruits and vegetables vary according to supply, level of prices of these commodities and that of substitutes, increase in per capita income etc. As such, there is no shortfall in the supply of any of these commodities to meet the domestic demand. However, Government is making concerted efforts to increase the production of these commodities through implementation of various crop production oriented programmes to meet the increasing demand.

Maize Cultivation

2267. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area presently under cultivation of maize;

(b) whether Government propose to encourage maize cultivation; and

(c) if so, the details of the incentives likely to be provided to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The estimated area coverage under maize in the country during 1992-93 is likely to be 60.40 lakh hectares.

(b) Yes, Sir. In order to encourage maize cultivation in the country, a Central Sector Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) (Maize & Millets) is in operation in 11 important maize growing States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh on 100 percent Government of India's assistance.

(c) Under the scheme financial assistance is provided for increased use of critical inputs viz. certified seeds, herbicides, plant protection chemicals, distribution of plant protection equipments, improved farm implements and conducting the field demonstration, and training to farmers etc.

2268. *[Transferred to 19th August, 1993]*

Consumption of DAP Fertilizer

2269. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of consumption and use of DAP fertilizer by the decontrol/increase of price of this fertilizer;

(b) whether it is a fact that the use of the fertilizer has been considerably cut down by the increase of price of DAP;

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of DAP more urea is being used and the excessive use of urea instead of DAP is harming fertility of the land; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to stop the unbalanced use of fertilizers due to hike in the price of DAP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The table below gives the comparative figures of sales of urea and DAP during Rabi, Rabi 1991-92 and 1992-93 seasons:

(Lakh tonnes)

Product	Rabi 1991-92 (Oct., 91 March, 92)	Rabi 1992-93 (Oct., 92 March, 93)	% growth
Urea	75.47	82.66	(+) 9.5
DAP	26.46	20.49	(−) 23.0

To stop the imbalanced use of fertilizer due to the hike in price of DAP and other decontrolled fertilizers and to prevent any negative impact, Government provided a sum of Rs. 340 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 756 crores in 1993-94 for sale of these fertilizers at concessional rates to farmers.

Bee-keeping in Andhra Pradesh

2270. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage bee-keeping in backward areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what incentives will be offered to encourage bee-keeping;

(c) whether any proposal to form an Apex body to encourage bee-keeping;

(d) what specific assistance proposed to be extended to Andhra Prdesh to develop its full potential of honey production and bee-keeping; and

(e) whether any assistance in marketing is likely to be given by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have a proposal to encourage bee-keeping in the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Government have a proposal to set up on Apex body at the national level for the development of bee-keeping. The said body is expected to—

(i) co-ordinate, promote, sponsor and support research, extension and development programme in bee-keeping in the country as an essential input for agricultural production;

(ii) promote and assist in infrastructural development for post-harvest handling, processing and marketing including export of honey and its products; and

(iii) advise the Govt. on policy matters involved in promotion of bee-keeping and related activities in the country.

(d) and (e) State-wise and component-wise assistance will be worked out after the proposal is approved and budgetary allocations made.

National Pulses Development Programme

2271. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the achievements of the National Pulses Development Programme and the Special Food grains Production Programme Pulses for the last three years;

(b) whether Pulses being brought under the purview of the Technology Mission has been beneficial and reasons therefor;

(c) what is the production target set for the current year;

(d) whether the recent floods in North India will affect the target of production and to what extent; and

(e) what are the remedial measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Targets and Achievements for pulses production are given below:

(Lakh tonnes)

Year	Targets	Production
1990-91	150.00	142.6
1991-92	155.00	120.5
1992-93	145.00	147.0 (Provisional)

(b) Pulses Production Programme has been brought under the purview of Technology Mission on Oilseeds w.e.f. August, 1990. Concerted efforts on Mission mode has resulted in a record estimated production of 147 lakh tonnes.

(c) The production target of pulses for 1993-94 is 155 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) Kharif Pulses production will be affected. While no accurate estimate of loss of pulses crop due to recent floods can be made at this stage, it will be endeavour of the Central Govt. to attempt to recoupe the loss by additional area and more intensive cultivation during Rabi/Summer.